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July 12, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Hon. Steven L. Tiscione United States Magistrate Judge United States District Court Eastern District of New York 225 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York 11201

Re: Banda v. Northland Group, Inc.

Docket No. 1:15-cv-06894-ENV-ST

Dear Judge Tiscione:

We represent Defendant, Northland Group, Inc. ("Northland"), in the above-referenced lawsuit and write in response to the letter of Plaintiff's counsel, Adam J. Fishbein, Esq., which announced that that Plaintiff will not attend the initial conference scheduled for July 14, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. (Docket No. 13).

It is respectfully suggested that if the parties are going to have meaningful settlement discussions, as is understood to be part of the Court's agenda for the initial conference, it is imperative that the Plaintiff be available to attend the conference. This is particularly true in a proposed class-action lawsuit such as this where any damages awardable to the Plaintiff are statutorily fixed under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and Plaintiff is seeking to serve as the representative of the purported class. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Court instruct Plaintiff to provide dates that she will be available to attend the initial conference and that the conference be adjourned accordingly.

We thank the Court for its consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

HINSHAW & CULBERTSON LLP

By: <u>/s/ Matthew B. Corwin</u>
Matthew B. Corwin

cc: All Counsel of Record (Via ECF)